

PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

To the Senators and Representatives
of the Tenth Legislature:¹

I convene you with reference to the finances of the State. I regret the necessity, but I believe that the interest of the State and the people require it. The reasons are obvious. Since your adjournment, the legislation of Congress has extended to the State the privilege of exchanging one half of the amount of one hundred dollar Confederate Notes in the Treasury for the new issue. This will enable the State to convert nearly if not quite a million dollars in notes of that denomination into the new issue, and thereby place in the Treasury that amount of currency more than you anticipated when in session. The Treasury Warrants which you authorized to be issued to meet the annual appropriation of a million dollars made for the benefit of the families of soldiers and to support the civil list, will from every indication fail to accomplish the objects desired. The provision made by you for sustaining these warrants is under existing circumstances inadequate and are now quoted in the market at from 8 to 10 cents on the dollar, and I see no prospect of their advancing in value. Under existing laws, nearly if not quite two million dollars in these warrants will be put in circulation before the regular session of the Legislature can convene, and yet they will fail in consequence of the great depreciation to afford the relief to indigent families of soldiers that was intended mainly by you in authorizing them to be issued. Thus a large debt will be created against the State, to be funded in Bonds and ultimately redeemed in specie, while the State will not realize in the objects she has in view, perhaps over 10 cents on the dollar of the amount issued. But few of these Warrants are yet issued under the law passed by you, and the further issuance of them should at once be arrested unless measures can be adopted that will give them credit of the

¹From Executive Record Book No. 280, 1863-1865, pp. 141-142 (Archives Division, Texas State Library).

State sufficient value to insure the accomplishment of the objects intended. If the credit of the State cannot be sustained, it should not be used at all unless it shall become absolutely necessary. It would be far better to rely entirely upon Confederate Currency in conducting the affairs of the State and to discharge her obligations as they are created than to use her credit at such ruinous rates. Measures more efficient and better suited to the condition of the State must be adopted if the appropriation for the benefit of the families of soldiers are to avail them anything in many localities. The difference in the value of Confederate currency in different portions of the State make this subject a difficult one, but it must be met and the difficulties solved by you.

For these and other reasons, unnecessary to be here stated, I, Pendleton Murrah, Governor of the State of Texas, do issue this my Proclamation ordering the Legislature of the State of Texas to convene in Extraordinary Session at the Capitol in the City of Austin on Monday the 17th day of October A.D. 1864.

Whereas, it is believed that vacancies exist in several of the Senatorial and Representative Districts of this State,

Now Therefore I do require the Chief Justices of the several counties composing such districts (or two County Commissioners if necessary) upon the receipt of this Proclamation to proceed to have elections held in their respective counties to fill said vacancies after having given not more than ten nor less than five days notice of such election and make returns thereof to the Secretary of State as the law directs.

In testimony whereof I have here-
unto signed my name and caused the
Great Seal of the State to be
Affixed.

Done at the City of
Austin this 15th day September
A.D. 1864 and in the year of the
Independence of Texas the Twenty-
Ninth

By the Governor.

R. J. Townes,
Secretary of State